

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /083 W

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R 031217Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 959

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USUN NEW YORK 459

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MO, UN

SUBJ: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 628 (NOTAL)

1. LATEST ISSUE OF "CAMBIO 16" (INDEPENDENT WEEKLY) CONTAINS INTERVIEW MADE AT THE HAGUE WITH EDUARDO MOHA, PRESIDENT OF MOVEMENT FOR LIBERALITION OF SPANISH SAHARA (MOREHOB). MOHA HAS BEEN AT THE HAGUE FOR PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ICJ AND, ACCORDING TO "CAMBIO 16", GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED IN DUTCH PRESS AND ON DUTCH TV.

2. MOHA SAID HIS ORGANIZATION CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN 1969 AND HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS. IT IS AIDED BY
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LIBYA, MOROCCAN OPPOSITION, AND FROM TIME TO TIME BY GOVTS

OF ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND TUNIS. MOHA SAID THAT ONCE INDEPENDENCE OF SAHARA WAS GAINED, UN WOULD HAVE TO EXERCISE BIGILENCE BECAUSE SAHARANS WOULD BE LIVING IN CONSTANT FEAR OF MILITARY INVASTION BY HASSAN. IN MOHA'S WORDS "ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THEN TO FALL UNDER DOMINATION OF HASSAN'S TOTALITARIAN REGIME".

3. ASKED ABOUT RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA, MOHA SAID LATTER HAD TERRITORIES WHICH BELONGED TO SAHARA. THESE TERRITORIES IDJIL AND GOURAUD) WERE CEDED "MOMENTARILY" IN 1914 BY SPAIN TO FRANCE. MAURITANIA, HEE SAID CHANGES ITS STRATEGY TOWARDS THE MOREHOB FROM TIME TO TIME, LATELY SOME OF MOREHOB'S COMMANDOS ON FRONTIER HAVE BEEN JAILED AND SUBSTITUTED BY MEN FROM MAURITANIAN ARMY. MOHA SAID THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD NO PROBLEM WITH ALGERIAN GOVT.

4. ACCORDING TO MOHA, IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS WERE CLOSING IN ON SAHARA. "WE SAHARANS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE A RIGHT TO CLAIM UNJUSTLY SEIZED TERRITORY. WE SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION OF UNITED NATIONS AND ARE PREPARED TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH SPAIN TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE." MOHA SAID THAT REFERENDUM ON SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD BE HELD BUT IT MUST INCLUDE APPROX 45,000 SAHARANS WHO IMMIGRATED SINCE 1958. MOHA SAID THAT UN COMMITTEE OF 24 HAD HIS ORGAINZATION'S REPORT ON SAHARA WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO INSPECTION MISSION SCHEDULED TO VISIT AREA. SEPARATE REPORT IN "CAMBIO 16" SAYS THAT THIS VISIT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR END OF FEB TO SAHRA.

5. IN EFFORT TO CONTACT DIRGEN IN PRESIDENCY IN CHARGE OF SAHARAN AFFAIRS, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT HE IS IN SAHARA AT THE MOMENT. (EMBASSY COMMENT: HIS PRESENCE WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM REPORTS IN REFTTEL THAT SAHARAN QUESTION HAD BECOME SINGLE MOST PREOCCUPYING ISSUE FOR PRESIDENCY. DIRGEN PRESUMABLY IS IN SAHARA TO PREPARE TERRAIN FOR SPEICAL SESSION OF SAHARAN ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR FEB 15 AND FOR PROBABLE INSPECTION VISIT BY UN TEAM LATER IN MONTH.) EATON

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